

# The Colored American

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## A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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## THE COLORED AMERICAN,

EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1900.

### WHY NOT AN "OPEN DOOR" AT WEST POINT AND ANNAPOLIS?

The recent appointment of a large batch of cadets for the military academy at West Point and the naval academy at Annapolis emphasizes the fact that color is absolutely wanting in those great institutions. These schools are putatively for all the people, and are supported out of the general treasury, into which the taxes of the black and white, rich and poor citizen are alike gathered. Why is it that the boy of every species of ancestry save that of African is permitted to enjoy the valuable and healthful training furnished by these schools? Why is the black boy alone "turned down" and treated by his own land worse than an alien?

Cannot the colored boy pass the required examination? He passes the Civil Service and the Census examinations, and successfully undergoes the tests necessary to get into Harvard, Yale, and other institutions of the highest character. Is the question of "social equality" the barrier? Social equality in a public school or public office is a myth. The relations between the participants in governmental privileges or functions smack no more of the social than the intercourse that happens every day in the transaction of business—each attends to his own affairs and goes his way, each free to be agreeable personally to such as may suit his particular fancy. This habit of lugging the "social equality" skeleton into every nook of our national life is a reprehensible practice, and is slowly but surely undermining the government's fundamental principles of justice and fraternity, and setting up two standards of American citizenship—one for the whites and another for the blacks. The story of "the house divided against itself" might be studied to immense advantage by those who would conserve the future interest of our common country.

There is no legal barrier to our admittance to West Point or Annapolis. The members of Congress have the power to recommend whomsoever they

wish, regardless of color, creed, or descent. If it be argued that the white boy wins when the competitive system is adopted, the fact may be cited that the President has a quota of appointments which attach to his office, and he may make his selections from the United States at large. Why has Mr. McKinley persisted in passing by the thousands of available, bright young Negroes, many of whom are graduates of excellent colleges?

The Negro's valor can not be questioned. His capacity to make a good soldier or sailor is not open to dispute. Bunker Hill, Lake Erie, New Orleans, Resaca, Ft. Wagner, Manila, and San Juan rise up with a scintillating record, establishing before the jury of the world that the Negro has been foremost in patriotism and vigor in all the conflicts in defense of the stars and stripes.

Yet no black face appears at the academies for instruction in the naval and military arts. Whose fault is it? Cannot the blame be located? Instead of frittering away our time in vain search for the impossible, let us turn our eyes to advantages that may be secured by a little well directed effort. It is somebody's business to find out why these academies are closed against us. He will indeed be a Negro Moses who will show us how the door may be opened.

Let us have the light turned on at West Point and Annapolis.

All honor to the gallant First Separate Battalion of the District of Columbia. The colored soldier boys were the cynosure of all eyes at the Gaithersburg encampment, and were models of deportment, cleanliness and skill. Major Brook's cohorts obeyed orders to a "t," and allowed tactical mistakes to go where they belonged.

### THE COUNCIL AT THE CAPITOL.

It was quite a feather in the cap of the Indiana local committee to secure the Senate chamber of the magnificent capitol at Indianapolis as the place of meeting for the National Afro-American Council. The custodian of the building, Mr. J. W. West, proves himself a gentleman of the most liberal and public spirited character, and represents the very best sentiment of Hoosierdom. A proviso is made, however, at once significant and pleasing. As the capitol belongs to all the people, a very proper request is made that the council avoid the discussion of political and religious subjects in a manner that might give offence to any party or denomination. This will guarantee the orderly transaction of the Councils legitimate business, and prevent the meeting from being diverted to the purposes of a party machine. The Council has no business meddling with politics per se. Its mission is to deal in broad principles of citizenship, to devise means for protecting the Negro's legal rights and to enlarge our opportunities for moral and material advancement as a people. The capitol is neutral ground, and Messrs. Knox, Lewis, Manning and others are entitled to a vote of thanks for securing so desirable a meeting place.

The assassination of King Humbert of Italy was a most unfortunate incident. Such crimes never fail to encourage the enemies of law and order. Murder is a dangerous solution of political problems, and no good ever grew out of such a mode of settlement. There are breakers ahead for the Italian government.

Keep cool.

There is light ahead.

Don't fly off the handle.

The poor man is a slave.

Do that which lies nearest to you.

The darkest hour is just before the dawn.

Short sermons for hot weather is the demand.

An honest newspaper pays in the long run.

George A. Myers is master of the Ohio situation.

We hope for the best in the once grand old state of North Carolina.

There are people that live in glass houses who persist in the folly of stone throwing.

Indianapolis is decidedly "in it" this year. All roads lead to the delightful Hoosier capitol.

Will Bishop Walters accept a reelection as president of the National Afro-American Council?

How would a nice snug Chinese Consulate strike some of our statesmen who occupy conspicuous seats on the anxious bench.

Senator William E. Mason, one of America's grandest apostles of liberty and human rights, is in line for McKinley and Roosevelt.

Some of the folks you are missing now from their accustomed haunts will turn up bye and bye with ghost stories of their "great trip to Paris."

The Colored American is highly appreciative of the kindly comments of our young neighbor, The Daily Record. Editor Manly is up to date.

If the Negro vote in the doubtful states of the North is solidly republican, President McKinley will be re-elected. If the Negro is neglected—Well!

Who can blame the "heathen chinee" for gagging at the Louisiana brand of christianity or the North Carolina notion of civilized government.

Heaven's gates are still closed to the little-headed creature who says "There is nothing in a Negro newspaper," and yet borrows his neighbor's American as soon as he sees the carrier deliver it.

The annual convention of the National Afro-American Council will be a grand success. The time, place and personnel of the gathering are all powerful factors for the well-being of the race.

There is a well defined rumor afloat that the genial appointment clerk of the Census Bureau, Mr. J. W. Langley, may become a West Virginian. If true, that very thrifty and resourceful state is to be congratulated.

There is too much good in the Negro to be permanently obscured by so ephemeral a cloud as race prejudice. He that is in the right will eventually be understood by his bitterest critics, and will come out more than conqueror.

The Indianapolis Committee has secured the senate chamber of the State Capitol for the August meeting of the National Afro-American Council. Bully for Chairman Knox, Messrs. W. M. Lewis, A. E. Manning, W. Allison, Sweeney and the other "pushers."

The democratic party has a golden opportunity, but its leaders have not the breadth of mind to grasp it. While the republican party succeeds invariably upon its merits, it is helped very materially by democratic stupidity and charlismness on the Negro question.

The Colored American has a habit of making remarks about certain classes of people, holding up their forbes to ridicule. It is wonderful how many regard our remarks as personal, and feel that they all have an individual kick coming. Yea, the guilty flee when no man pursueth.

It is said that were Mr. Bryan independent of the South he would be the squarest man in the country on issues relating to the Negro. But suppose he should decide to be square and the South should decide to be independent of Mr. Bryan, where would the eloquent Lincolnian be?

Everything points to the success of the Boston business men's convention, August 23. If the right men go there in the right spirit, the commercial interests of the Negro will see the dawn of a new and prosperous era. The Negro to succeed must make himself a factor in the markets of the nation.

Leaders of parties beware of the oily tongued individual expatiates volubly upon the advantages of the campaign sheet. The only influential medium for reaching the people is the reliable and well-established newspaper. Campaign funds should be spent where they will do the most good. The campaign "dodger" is an exploded firecracker.

An idiot in the Sunday Post, after a lucid interval in which he testified that the Negro was a necessity in the South, branched off again into imbecility, endeavoring to argue that Negro pulpits in the South should be filled by white preachers, and that the Negro youth should be instructed by white teachers, if a permanent solution of the race problem was to be looked for. This specimen of ante bellum bric-a-brac should be sent at once to the ward set apart for incurables.

There is no call for a Negro party. We have very little faith in the side issue tickets, anyway. Either McKinley or Bryan is sure to win. Why not influence directly the election of one of the other and be able to have weight with the victor. As Frederick Douglass was wont to remark: "It is better to be a small part of something than to be the whole of nothing." The Negro must make every vote count and refuse to be led by demagogues and traders into any selling out Negro party movement.